



***THE DIPLOMACY OF WTO ACCESSION
RECONCILING EXISTING TENSIONS AND ADDRESSING NEW CHALLENGES***

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

29-30 May 2009

Organized by

**The World Trade Institute
Hallerstrasse 6
CH-3012 Berne
Switzerland**

CONTEXT:

One of the most remarkable successes of the World Trade Organization in recent years has been the expansion of WTO Membership and the continued stream of applications of countries to accede to the WTO. There are currently twenty eight would-be Members at various stages of entry negotiations (see Annex below). Of the 43 countries that have applied to accede the WTO under Article XII since January 1st 1995, approximately one half have been countries in the process of transition from a planned to a market economy. The long queue at the WTO's doorstep suggests that membership of the world trade body represents a powerful attraction for countries who tend to regard WTO entry as a "stamp of approval" of their policies and of admission into the international community.

The March 2009 *Hague Journal of Diplomacy's* Special Issue on the Diplomacy of WTO Accession (Volume 4, Number 1) highlighted the dramatic changes in the process of accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) from that of its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and its implications for the global trading system. Whereas in the GATT new members were admitted largely on the nod in what was for the most part a highly informal process - especially for former colonial states, the WTO accession process is both highly formalized and increasingly technical in character. Rigorous procedures and provisions are now in place to govern accession negotiations, such that the diplomatic process often takes several years to complete, particularly when significant political, economic and/or institutional capacity constraints exist in the applicant country, as is typically the case.

The Hague Journal's special issue features a collection of original and provocative case studies on WTO accession, among which a contribution on the challenges faced by LDCs in acceding to the WTO by Helen Hawthorne; Taiwan's tactical use of iterative multi-level negotiations in its accession process by Chen-wei Huang; an exploration of why China's entry into the WTO may have provided wider political latitude for transforming China into a market economy by Chieh Huang; the continuing challenges Russia faces in its WTO accession process by David Dyker, as well as an overview of the procedural and political realities of WTO accession faced by trade diplomats by Peter Milthorp.

To further explore this topic, the World Trade Institute (WTI) at the University of Berne is hosting a workshop on "*The Diplomacy of WTO Accession: Reconciling Existing Tensions and Addressing New Challenges*", to be held at its premises on 29-30 May 2009. The workshop will provide an opportunity for contributors to the Hague Journal of Diplomacy's Special Issue and a distinguished group of experts to present and discuss recent work with senior trade and development officials drawn from the ranks of the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, UNCTAD and the European Commission, chief accession negotiators, and academic experts.

For further information on the workshop and its program, please visit the WTI website at www.wti.org or contact Pierre Sauvé, the WTI's Director of Studies, at pierre.sauve@wti.org.

Directions to the WTI building from the central railway station in Berne are attached to the program.

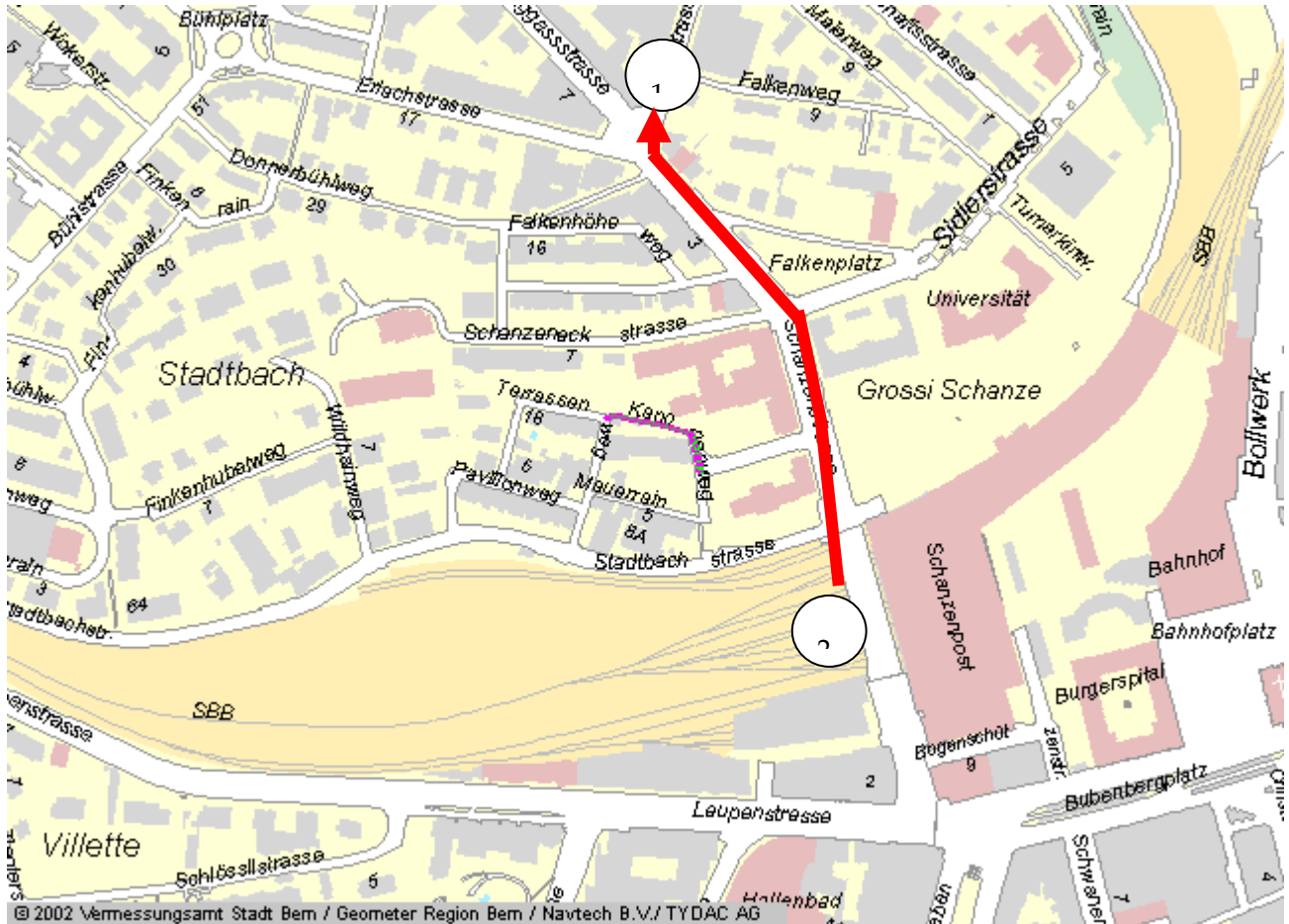
Workshop Program (draft)

Friday, 29 May 2009	
13:00-13:15	<p>Welcoming remarks:</p> <p>Pierre Sauvé, Deputy Managing Director and Director of Studies, World Trade Institute, University of Berne, Switzerland</p> <p>Donna Lee, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK</p>
13:15 – 14:30	<p><i>Session 1 –The Process of Accession: Rules-based or Power-based?</i></p>
	<p>Anna Lanoszka, University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada <i>The WTO Accession Process: ‘Old’ Style Diplomacy within the Rules-based System</i></p> <p>Peter Milthorp, WTO Accessions Division, Geneva, Switzerland <i>The Role of the WTO Accessions Division in Reconciling the Economic and Political Concerns of WTO Members</i></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Heidi Ullrich, Independent Trade Consultant, Los Angeles, USA</p>
14:30 – 14:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
14:45 – 16:15	<p><i>Session 2 –The Arduous Journey to WTO Membership: Russian Accession Negotiations</i></p>
	<p>Maxim Medvedkov, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia. Director of Trade Negotiation Department, Ministry of Economic Development, Moscow, Russia</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Alejandro Jara, Deputy Director General, World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland</p>
16:15 – 16:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>

16:45 – 18:15	<p>Session 3 –Lessons from accession: a World Bank perspective</p> <p>Olivier Cattaneo, Trade Department, <i>World Bank</i></p> <p>Discussant: Susan Prowse, Overseas Development Institute, London, U.K.</p> <p>Chair: Pierre Sauvé, WTI, University of Berne</p>
19:30	<p><i>Dinner</i></p> <p>Keynote Speech: Alejandro Jara, Deputy Director General, WTO. Geneva, Switzerland</p>
<p>Saturday, 30 May 2009</p>	
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Session 4 – The Accession of Non-Market Economies: Is the WTO Employing Coercive Diplomacy?</p>
	<p>Chieh Huang, University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China</p> <p><i>Non-market Economies' Accessions to the WTO: Evolution of the Approach and Implications for the Organization</i></p> <p>Discussant: Simon Evenett, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zhang Liping, Counselor, Chinese Mission to the WTO (tbc)</p> <p>Chair: Daniel Crosby, Partner, Budin and Partners, Geneva, Switzerland</p>
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 - 12:30	<p>Session 5 – LDCs and WTO Accession: Receiving Special Treatment?</p>

	<p>Helen Hawthorne, City University, London, UK <i>Acceding to the Norm: LDC Accession to the WTO</i></p> <p>Discussant: Sonam Phuntsho, Director, Department of Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan</p> <p>Chair: Chedu Osakwe, Director, Accession Division, WTO, Geneva</p>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Session 6 – Multi-Level Negotiations: Iterative Two-Level Games
	<p>Chen-Wei Huang, Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK <i>Bilateralism and Multilateralism: Taiwan’s Trade Liberalisation Trajectory</i></p> <p>Discussant: Simon Evenett, St-Gallen University, Switzerland</p> <p>Chair: Olga Nartova, WTI, University of Berne, Switzerland</p>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00 - 17:30	Session 7 – Understanding the Diplomacy of WTO Accession: Concluding Remarks and the Way Forward
	<p>Facilitators:</p> <p>Donna Lee, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK</p> <p>Heidi Ullrich, Independent Trade Consultant, Los Angeles, USA</p> <p>Open Discussion</p>

Getting to the WTI from the train station



- 1 Represents the location of the World Trade Institute at Hallerstrasse 6
- 2 Represents the location of the Bahnhof (central railway station)

Get off the train at Berne central station (Bahnhof). When standing on the platform, do not walk down into the station itself but rather take the stairway up at the western end of the platform. This brings you to location (2) on the map. Follow the road as shown - you should find yourself walking gradually uphill on Schanzenstrasse/Länggassstrasse. Turn right at Hallerstrasse and find the WTI on the left (1)

You can reach us by phone at 031 631 5496 if need be.